

time when we are facing the growing and, as yet, unknown total costs of completing the war against Iraq, fighting terrorism, protecting the homeland, while meeting essential needs like health care for our seniors and education for our young people. The Federal Government's role in addressing these issues is especially important at this time because state governments, including my state of Delaware, are experiencing severe budget problems forcing them to reduce funding for virtually every program at the state level.

The fact of the matter is that deficits do matter. Due in part to the economic slowdown and the costs of the war on terrorism, we are now facing federal deficits over the next ten years that could approach \$4.2 trillion. Adding debt at these levels can hurt the economy. In addition, they will come at a time when we will begin to face tremendous demands to fund the retirement of the Baby Boom generation and the growing health care needs of an aging population. If the tax cuts called for in this budget resolution are ultimately approved, we are really rolling the dice on whether they will strengthen the economy significantly or add to the growing deficit challenges we face.

I must also oppose this resolution based on the poor process that has brought us to this point. We are voting on this budget in the middle of the night because a compromise on a more realistic tax cut level could not be reached and the decision was made to try to force this through. Instead of attempting to find consensus on a more limited level of tax cuts of \$350 billion, which would provide more rapid tax relief for families and small businesses, this resolution not only expresses support for a total package of \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts, it attempts to get around the fact that the Senate is on record for limiting the tax cut to \$350 billion. This resolution creates an unprecedented loophole in the budget process to protect up to \$550 billion in tax cuts through an expedited Senate vote. Despite the fact that budget resolutions are supposed to establish one set of rules for considering tax legislation. This resolution makes it possible for a second, higher tax cut bill to get a protected vote in the Senate.

This is not a time when Congress should be attempting to force through the largest tax cut possible regardless of its economic effectiveness when we face the costs of war, serious challenges at home and the return of long-term budget deficits.

My constituents tell me that it does not make sense to rush forward with tax cuts of this size before we have won the war with Iraq, understand its true cost, and evaluate the recovery of the economy and what is needed to help working Americans.

A better solution would have been to seek agreement on a more affordable tax relief package that would help the economy now; allow us to pay for our national security needs abroad and at home; and provide limited, but fair funding for key needs like education and health care, all within a realistic long-term plan to balance the federal budget.

Unfortunately, because of the decision to push for maximum tax cuts over the reservations of Members of both parties, this resolution does not meet the overall test of fiscal responsibility and common sense. This budget plan is seriously flawed and I must oppose it. When it comes time to pass the actual tax and spending legislation to implement this budget

plan, I hope more reason and fairness are applied and we take action that helps the American people now without mortgaging their future.

CONGRESSMAN PHILLIP BURTON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my great appreciation for and admiration of the late Congressman Phillip Burton. During his two decades in the House of Representatives—from 1964 to 1983—Congressman Burton was a great champion for the interests of the people of the Bay Area. Time and time again, Congressman Burton fought for the little people, ranging from the underprivileged to seniors to workers. His voice was loud and strong for these people. And his voice was persuasive in bringing people of all backgrounds and different ways of life together.

I had the privilege to know Congressman Burton while serving as a Hill staffer to Congressman Ronald V. Dellums. He was brilliant, compassionate, and a political whiz. During a reapportionment year, I remember Phil explaining to Ron the rationale for the boundaries of Ron's proposed new long District, and he said, "Don't worry, Ron, you are in your brother's arms."

Powerful voice that he was for his constituents, Congressman Burton will probably best be known for his respect for the environment. His record of establishing and preserving parks, wilderness areas, trails, and rivers may be unparalleled in the history of this country. As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, the Congressman did everything that he could to protect our precious natural resources. His National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 represents one of the most sweeping pieces of environmental legislation ever to pass Congress. That legislation doubled the national wild and scenic rivers system, tripled our national trails systems, and, by adding more than 2 million acres, doubled the wilderness acreage in the National Park Service.

In California, the Congressman's legislation ultimately protected nearly 5 percent of the state's land, including Redwood National Park. Even closer to my 9th Congressional District, Congressman Burton strengthened the beautiful Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Congressman Burton's contribution to our state and country has become recognized as an impressive legacy in the two decades since his death. Our appreciation of Congressman Burton and his efforts will no doubt grow only stronger in the coming decades as we struggle to preserve our precious, finite resources.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY SERVICE FOR SENIORS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would require door-to-door delivery service for senior citizens.

Over the years, I have been contacted by many seniors who live in adult-restricted communities and receive their mail in "cluster" mailboxes. This means that their mail is delivered to one central location instead of being placed in a mailbox at their own doorstep. With this type of mail delivery, seniors are forced to endure steps, curbs, bad weather, and moving cars in order to pick up their mail. Under these circumstances, something as simple as receiving mail can be one of the most inconvenient and dangerous daily tasks for those who are elderly.

Therefore, I am introducing this legislation to require the U.S. Postal Service to make door-to-door deliveries in senior housing areas. Under this bill, 80 percent of the residents in a community must be 55 and older in order to qualify to receive this service. Door-to-door deliveries would begin six months after enactment. Also, the bill clarifies that senior apartment buildings are specifically excluded from this bill.

It is imperative that we help our seniors receive their mail without putting their lives in danger, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important bill.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIP BURTON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, for those of us who served in this House with the late Phillip Burton, who remember his vibrant, unrelenting and passionate leadership, and who share his dreams for an America where every resident enjoys dignity and equality—for those of us fortunate enough to have known and collaborated with him, today is a day of rededication.

It is almost impossible to believe that 20 years have passed since Phil Burton departed this scene, far too early and, I am sure he would admit, with far too much work left undone. He served with distinction in this Chamber from 1964 to the day he died, 20 years ago today. They simply do not make politicians like Phil Burton anymore, or at least, not enough of them, and this House and the country are much the worse for the shortage.

Those who worked with Phil never forgot the experience, for good or bad. He was a brilliant tactician, an unrelenting liberal, and a tireless advocate. He was not especially lovable, but he wasn't looking for love; he was looking for results, and he won the respect of friends and adversaries alike.

Phil would not like what he would see in American politics today. After decades of struggle and a decade of unparalleled economic prosperity, Americans work the longest work hours, for the lowest disposable income, with the smallest pensions and health insurance coverage and the least vacation time or maternity leave of any Western industrial nation. Today, the distribution of wealth in this country is more unequal than at any time since the New Deal, and is the most unequal of any society in the advanced industrial world. This is not the world Phil Burton would have wanted two decades after his death.

And yet our country in 2003, however enduring its problems, is a vastly better place for

Phillip Burton's service. Virtually all of the important steps forward taken in America during the turbulent 60's and 70's—civil rights, labor protections, pension security, education, land preservation, national parks—were deeply affected by Phillip Burton's tireless efforts. He was, in the words of Ted Simon in the *Los Angeles Times*, a "stupendous and original figure" who changed the political and legislative landscape as few before him ever dared to imagine.

Surely the greatest disappointment of his life was his failure to become Majority Leader, a race he lost by a single vote. And yet how proud he would be to know that one of his political godchildren—of which I happily count myself as one—would two decades later occupy the highest position in this House held by a Democrat, and the first woman to ever lead a party in Congress, his fellow San Franciscan NANCY PELOSI.

I knew Phil Burton throughout my entire life. He and my father worked together to build the modern California Democratic Party in the years after World War II. Many of the outstanding political leaders of our state, including George Moscone, Willie Brown, scores of members of the Legislature and Congress—including our current senate president John L. Burton—were students, friends and collaborators of Phil Burton.

When I came to Congress in 1975, I was placed on the same committees as Phil—Interior and Education and Labor. As a junior member, I saw first hand his extraordinary political acumen in meeting after meeting, often in his secret office in the Longworth Building, as he planned everything from minimum wage increases to welfare policy, to his historic mega-parks bill, or his even more impressive reapportionment map in 1982. Phil knew more details about any issue than just about anyone I have known here, and he knew more about almost everyone's district, too. Members might beg him to draw a line a little more in their favor, but Phil would be able to recite from memory, and without computers, the precise registration numbers in the newly configured district. "You're in your mother's arms," he'd tell disappointed colleagues, "now get to work."

The Congress and the Nation are very different from when Phil served here. The tone is different; the agenda is different; and our dedication to using the power granted us by the voters to improve the lives of the working people, minorities, the poor, the immigrants and to improve the environment—well, that's very different, too. I'd like to believe we'd be a better country if Phil Burton had gotten to be Majority Leader and Speaker of the House.

Instead, 20 years ago today, we lost a "brawling character and legislative strategist extraordinaire," in the words of Richard Cohen. In the sprawling, wildly popular Golden Gate National Recreation Area that he created—the Nation's most popular urban park—stands for all time an imposing statue of Phil Burton, tie askew, jacket flapping, arm outstretched. It is Phil at full throttle, in command, perpetually barking out a command direction and organizing the troops. There are a number of smaller models of that statue in some offices on the Hill, reminding us what it was like to serve with a true congressional legend, and continuing to summon up the best we have to offer for all the people of this nation.

RECOGNIZING THE DR. SAMUEL D. HARRIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY AS THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to announce the introduction of a resolution to recognize the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, located in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

As the most comprehensive dental museum in the world, it is a national and international resource whose primary mission is to educate people, especially children, about the history of dentistry and the importance of good oral hygiene. The museum uses state-of-the-art, interactive exhibitions and expert presentations to deliver the message that oral health is important to achieve overall health. Currently, the museum is displaying an exhibit entitled, "The Future Is Now! African Americans in Dentistry."

The museum is affiliated with the University of Maryland at Baltimore, home of the world's first dental school, founded in 1840. It contains hundreds of interesting and significant dental artifacts, not the least of which is George Washington's dentures. It also serves as a national center of learning with an extensive library from which scholars may study the evolution of dental treatment and learn of the numerous accomplishments of the dental profession over the years.

Most importantly, this museum is a reminder to all of us that oral and general health are inseparable, and good dental care is critical to our overall physical health and well-being. While oral health in America has improved dramatically over the last 50 years, these improvements have not occurred evenly across all sectors of our population, particularly among low-income individuals and families. Too many Americans today lack access to dental care. According to the report, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General", an estimated 25 million Americans live in areas lacking adequate dental services.

Unfortunately, states are facing extremely tight budgets, and have been forced to implement difficult cost containment measures and unpopular proposals to generate revenue savings—tax increases, cuts in education and cuts/elimination of Medicaid services. As a result, Medicaid programs have taken a direct hit, and dentistry has already become a target for program cuts—17 states reducing or eliminating adult dental services between 2002–2003. As a result, medically needy groups, including the frail elderly, will no longer have access to necessary dental treatment.

Passage of my resolution to make the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry the official national museum of dentistry in the United States will shine a bright light on the problem some Americans face in accessing dental care.

The museum is endorsed by the American Dental Association, National Dental Association, American Dental Education Association, American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, and the American Academy of the History of Dentistry, among others.

Please join me in supporting this national treasure by becoming a cosponsor of this important resolution. Thank you.

UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the following brief statement speaks for itself with respect to my appreciation for the State of Israel. Israel is presently in the midst of an intense violent struggle which has led to the accumulation of many progressive critics. While I sympathize with the plight of the Palestinian people, I am also convinced that they are primarily the victims of their own leaders—and the jihad fanatics around the world who insist on the use of savage violence to achieve their goals. Israel has no choice but to meet the fanatic violence with violence. Arafat and the Palestinian leadership have set the stage and made the rules for this ongoing destructive engagement. Even if you accept the assumption that the Palestinian people have some legitimate grievances, one can still not condone the method they have chosen to seek solutions. For any group confronted by an overwhelming governing power, Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela have shown the way. The use of nonviolence to petition for the redress of assumed grievances was and still is a choice for the constructive forces among the Palestinians. On the other hand it is a certainty that Israel will never negotiate any change while confronted with the savagery of suicide bombings. We would all like to see this kingpin conflict in the Middle East resolved. I am convinced that it can be resolved permanently and peacefully because Israel is not just another government held together by greed and military power. Israel is the democratic nation guided by a long history of suffering and inspiring human spirits that I describe in this speech at the AIPAC Capitol Club Dinner on March 30, 2003:

I consider it an honor to have an opportunity to reaffirm my unconditional support for the State of Israel. On any major matter involving Israel my vote is always there. I believe firmly and fervently that the salvation of the kind of civilization I want my grandchildren to inherit and enjoy cannot be realized unless we establish many more truly democratic nations all over the globe. Those who believe that more democracy is the answer should also automatically be advocates for Israel. Starting with a constitution which is probably more thorough and more practical than even the United States Constitution, Israel is a model democracy. And woven into the tapestry that makes Israel a great nation are the spirits of Golda Meir, David Ben-Gurion, Menachem Begin and other similar great sages. These spirits accomplish for Israel what the spirits of Jefferson, Lincoln, Truman and others contribute to the definition of America as a nation. We all agree that a nation is more than anyone administration or one set of policies and diplomacy postures. Founding principles and ideals interwoven with the great spirits permanently define a nation. Those who say that Israel is a Middle East outpost for the U.S. or that the